

# INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

AT THE STATE LIBRARY

# DIGITAL INTERVENTION

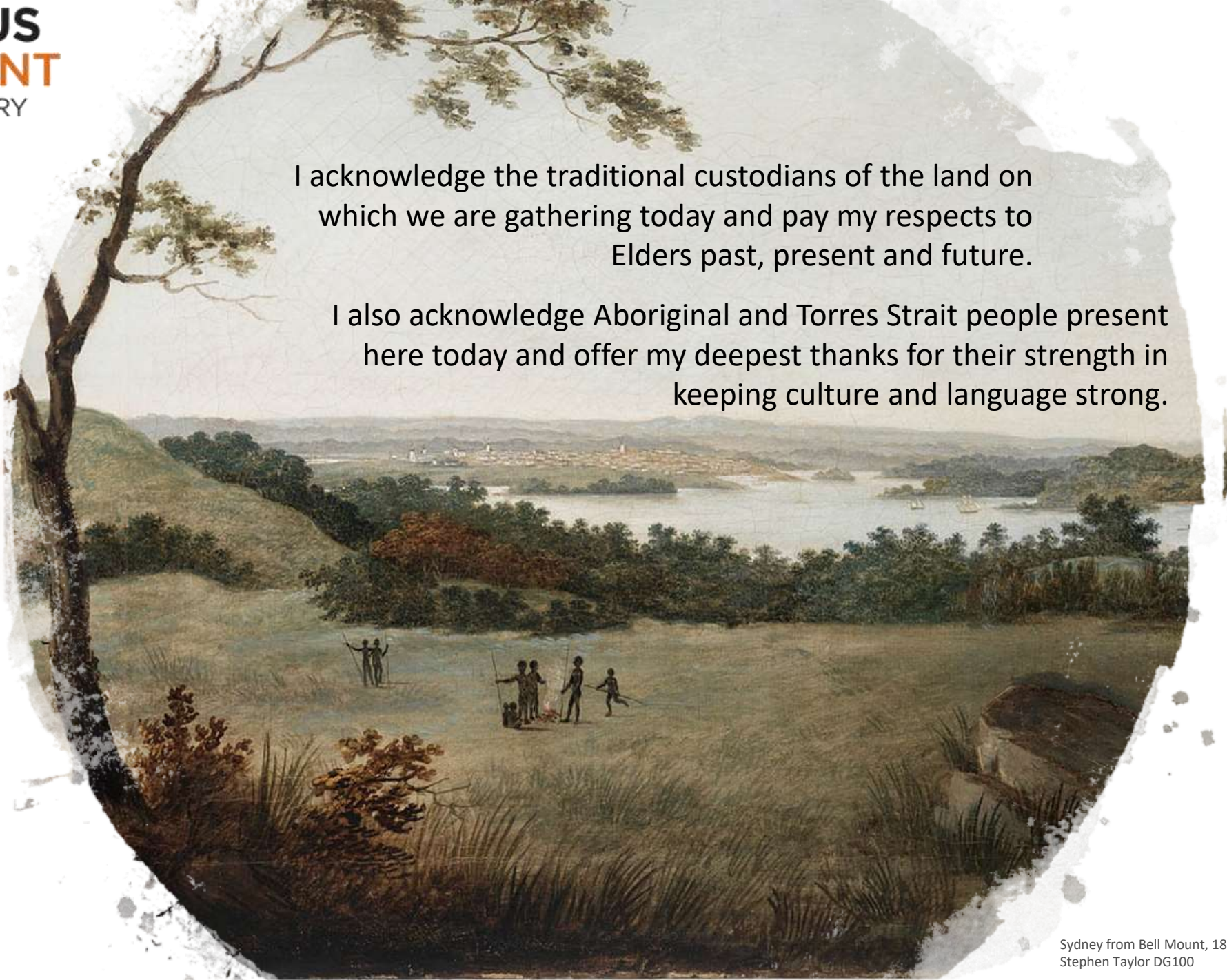
DAMIEN WEBB





I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathering today and pay my respects to Elders past, present and future.

I also acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait people present here today and offer my deepest thanks for their strength in keeping culture and language strong.



Sydney from Bell Mount, 1813 / painted by  
Stephen Taylor DG100

# INDIGEN@US ENGAGEMENT AT THE STATE LIBRARY

## INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

Transform libraries into welcoming spaces for First Nations people.



INDIGENOUS SPACES IN LIBRARY PLACES, TOOLKIT FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Connect the Library's collections to First Nations peoples and communities.



KAYLA SANDS AND ZAHLIA GREEN, DURING A VISIT TO THE STATE LIBRARY OF WALGETT'S DHARRIWAA ELDERS GROUP AS PART OF ITS *ELDERS TEACH FAMILY* PROGRAM, 2013.

Share stories of First Nations Australia for all Australian people, to build a connection with our nation's long history.



TALKING DEADLY, REGULAR SPEAKER SERIES AT THE LIBRARY

Develop priorities in partnership with First Nations communities.

Build cultural competency for staff and NSW public libraries, and increase the cultural safety of library spaces.



# WHAT IS AN INTERVENTION?



Decolonisation

Right of Reply

Indigenisation

Toula [or] Toulgra, a native of New South  
Wales, 1800-[1802] / taken from life by Mons  
Petitt [Petit]

# WHAT IS AN INTERVENTION?



Decolonisation

The process of  
undoing the damage  
of colonisation.

Recognising the bias  
and limitations of  
colonial power  
structures and  
knowledge systems,  
and actively  
rebalancing them.

Right of Reply

Indigenisation



# WHAT IS AN INTERVENTION?



Decolonisation

Right of Reply

Providing mechanisms which allow First Nations histories, culture and perspectives to inform our collections.

Deeply connected to decolonization but with links to broader ideas like data sovereignty and parallel provenance.

Indigenisation

Decolonisation

Right of Reply

Recognising the authority and sophistication of First Nations knowledge and incorporating this into traditionally 'non-Aboriginal' collections.

The Bruce Pascoe effect.

Indigenisation

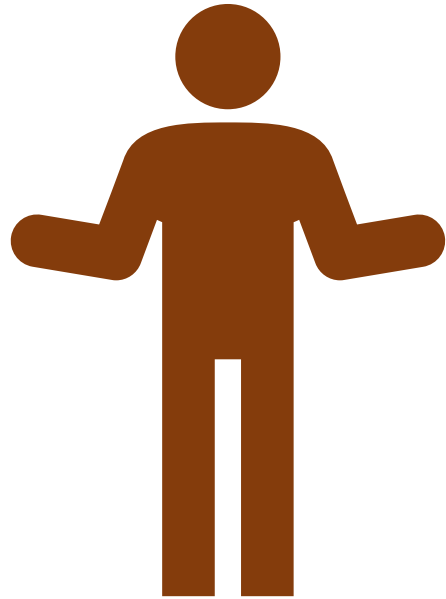




# Settlers and observers



WHY DO WE NEED AN  
INTERVENTION?



Western cataloguing,  
copyright and  
knowledge  
frameworks.

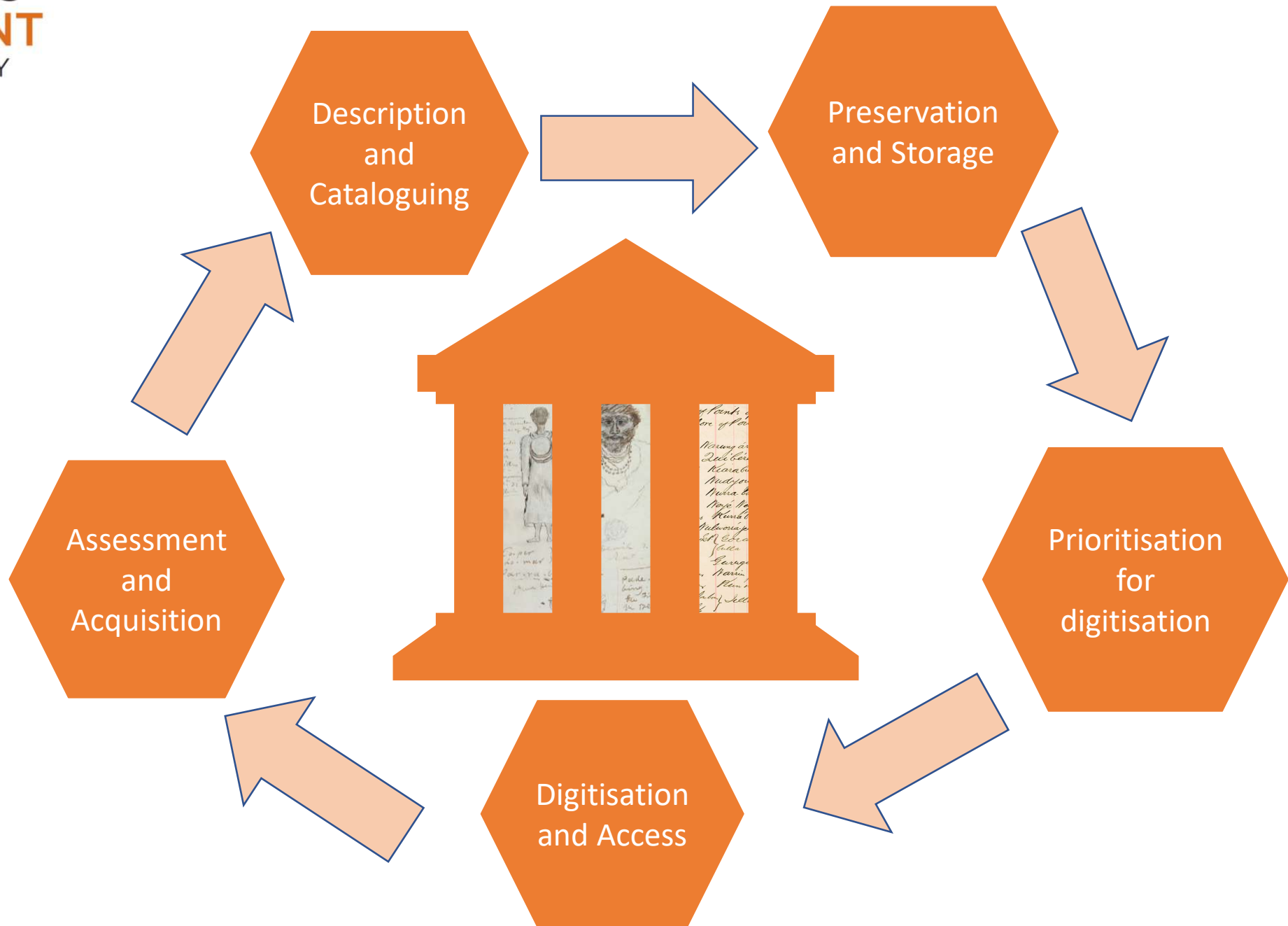
Lack of Aboriginal  
voices speaking back  
to the archives.

Lack of relationships  
between Library and  
regional  
communities.

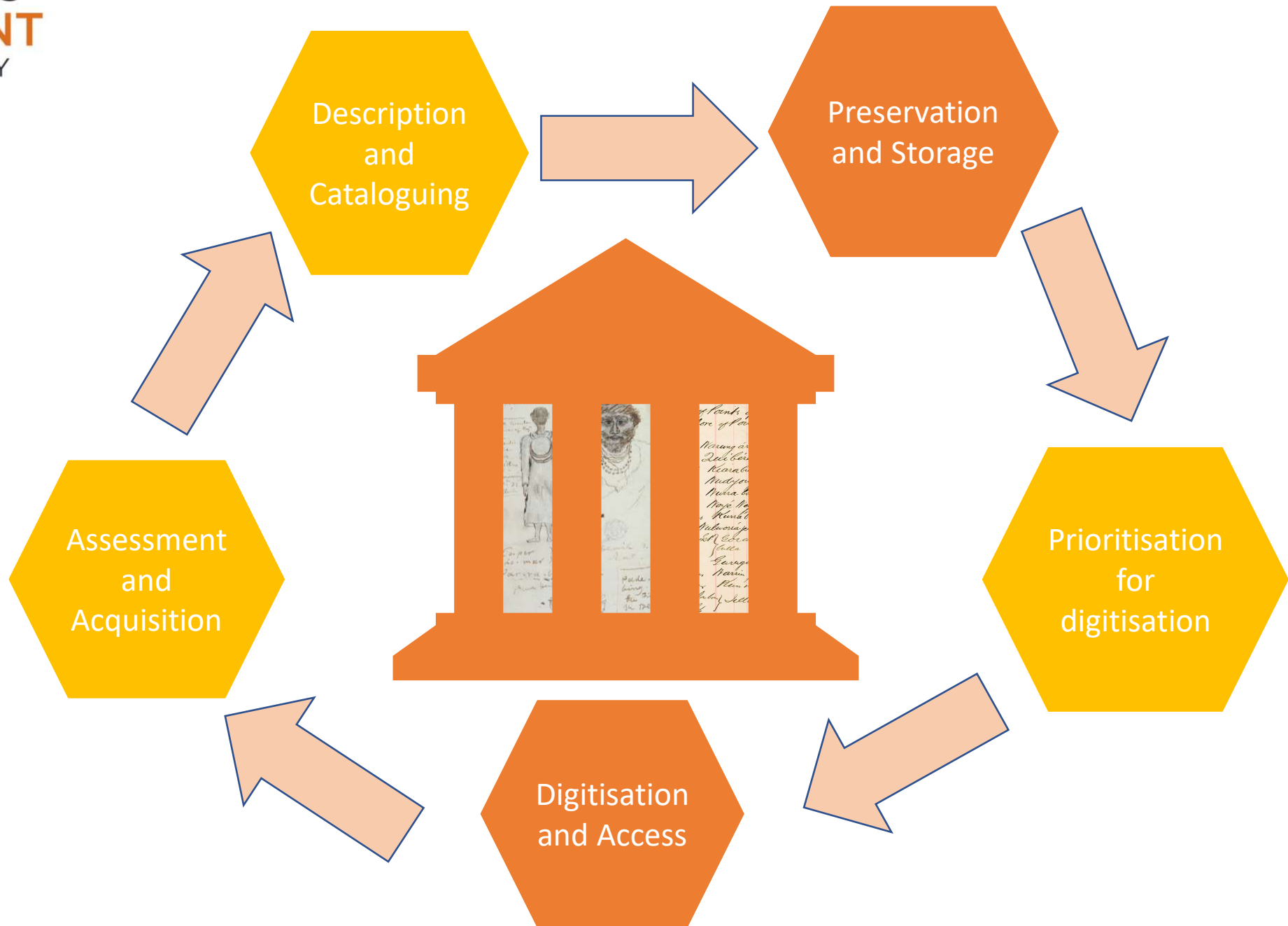
Non-Aboriginal  
collectors and  
donors.

Historical and racist  
language used to  
describe us.











These protocols were published in 1995 and are intended to guide libraries, archives and information services in appropriate ways to interact with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the communities which the organisations serve, and to handle materials with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content.

Improve access by the introduction of classificatory systems which describe items by their geographic, language and cultural identifiers.

Work cooperatively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to promote the creation, collection and management of digital materials

Promote appropriate changes to standard descriptive tools and metadata. schemas with the aim of retrospectively re-cataloguing items recorded with unsuitable subject headings.

Increasingly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collections are or include digital collections created through digitisation programs, for preservation and to increase access to collections, or are 'born digital'. In addition, digitisation is an enabling technology that permits virtual repatriation without institutional relinquishment of heritage materials. Digitisation of Indigenous materials poses some complex issues for organisations

Avoid providing access to items deemed secret, sacred or sensitive via their websites and online catalogues.

WHAT TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE?



WHAT TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE?

Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures.

Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences... They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

# UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

# INDIGENOUS COPYRIGHT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Based on the right to self-determination, ICIP rights are Indigenous People's rights to their heritage and culture. Heritage includes all aspects of cultural practices, traditional knowledge, resources and knowledge systems developed by Indigenous people as part of their Indigenous identity. ICIP rights also cover:

Literary, performing and artistic works  
(Copyright)

Languages

Types of Knowledge, including spiritual  
knowledge

Tangible and intangible cultural property

Indigenous ancestral remains and genetic  
material

Cultural environmental resources

Sites of Indigenous significance

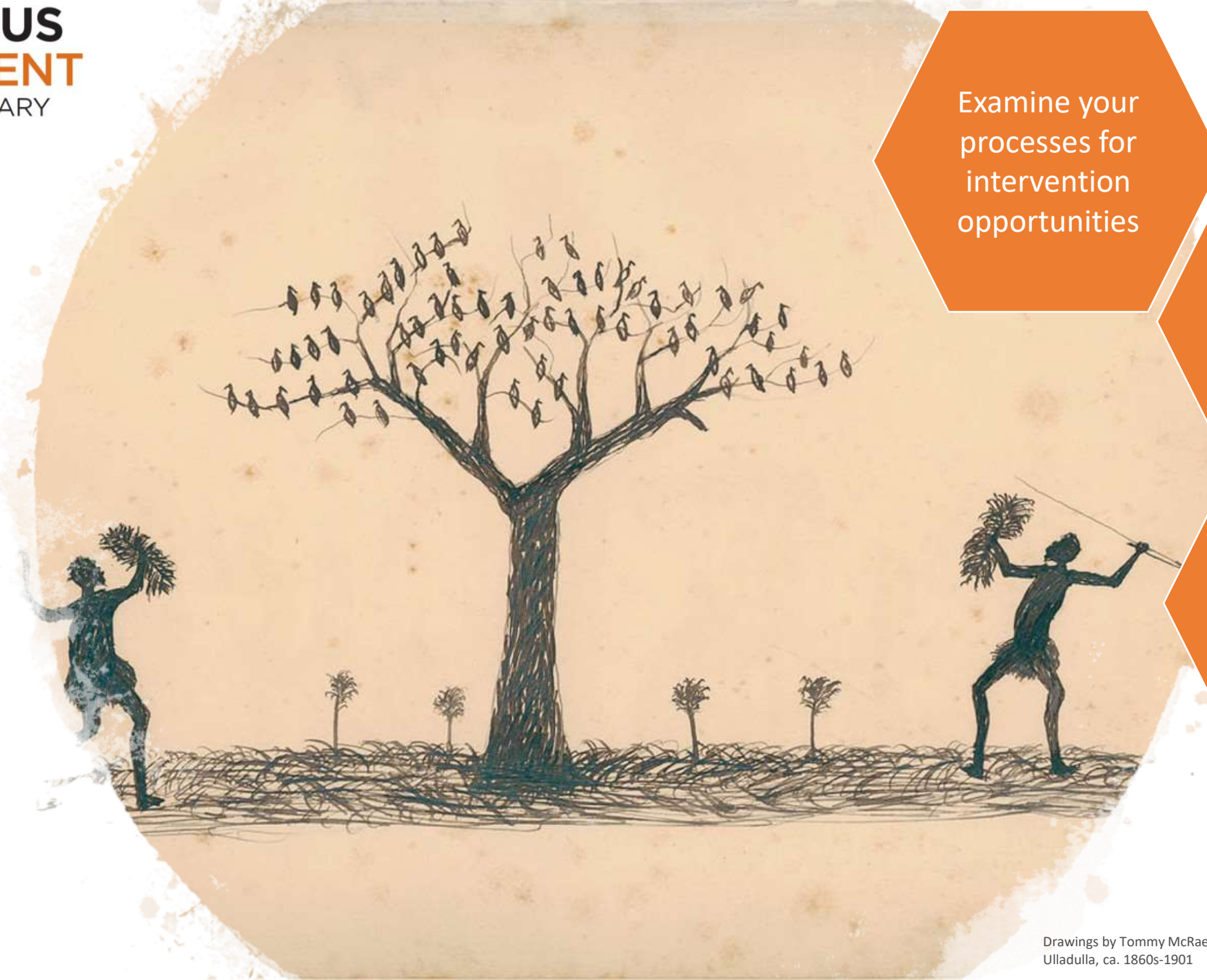
Documentation of Indigenous heritage.

ICIP rights are based in customary laws which are not recognised by the legal system. There are gaps in the law which mean that unless Indigenous people can meet the requirements of intellectual property laws like copyright, their rights are unprotected and open to exploitation.

To ensure the integrity of Indigenous heritage is maintained and passed on, the sector must prioritise Indigenous values, voices and perspectives in relation to the ICIP.

WHAT TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE?





Examine your  
processes for  
intervention  
opportunities

View  
disruption of  
the status quo  
as a moral  
imperative

Use the tools  
and  
frameworks  
we have given  
you!